

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of the claims replaces all prior versions of the claims in the application:

Listing of claims:

1. (currently amended) A method for metered injection of a fluid packet, comprising:
 pressurizing a vessel containing a fluid to a pressure less than or equal to a hold-off
 pressure; ~~and~~
 subjecting the fluid to an extraction force comprising dielectrophoresis to form the
 fluid packet and extract the fluid packet from the vessel onto a surface; and
 removing the fluid packet from the surface through an exit port.
2. (canceled)
3. (canceled)
4. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the extraction force is produced by an
electrode.
5. (original) The method of claim 4, wherein the electrode is coupled to the surface.
6. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the extraction force is produced by an
electrode array.
7. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the vessel comprises a flow-through injector.
8. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the pressure is between 65% and 85% of the
holdoff pressure.

9. (original) The method of claim 8, wherein the pressure is between 75% and 85% of the holdoff pressure.
10. (previously presented) The method of claim 8, wherein the size of the fluid packet is electronically controlled.
11. (canceled)
12. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 ~~11~~, wherein there are two or more exit ports.
13. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 ~~11~~, wherein the exit port is coupled to a conventional fluidics device.
14. (original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the metered injection of two or more fluid packets from two or more pressurized vessels.
15. (previously presented) The method of claim 14, further comprising using a switching pump, wherein the switching pump switches the extraction force between a first fluid packet in a first pressurized vessel and a second fluid packet in a second pressurized vessel.
16. (currently amended) A method for metered injection of a fluid packet, comprising:
 - pressurizing a vessel containing a first fluid to a pressure less than or equal to a hold off pressure, the first fluid comprising a first dielectric material;
 - energizing one or more electrodes coupled to a surface adjacent the vessel, the surface including a second fluid comprising a second dielectric material;

subjecting the first fluid to an extraction force comprising dielectrophoresis from the one or more electrodes to form the fluid packet and extract the fluid packet from the vessel onto a surface; and
removing the fluid packet from the surface through an exit port.

17. (canceled)

18. (canceled)

19. (canceled)

20. (canceled)

21. (previously presented) An apparatus for moving a fluid packet, the apparatus comprising:

a vessel configured to contain a fluid;

a pressure manifold coupled to the vessel;

a pressure reservoir coupled to the manifold and configured to pressurize the vessel to a pressure less than or equal to a hold off pressure;

a device capable of generating a programmable extraction force, the extraction force comprising dielectrophoresis and being configured to form the fluid packet and extract the fluid packet from the vessel onto a surface;

an exit port coupled to the surface and configured to receive the fluid packet.

22. (original) The apparatus of claim 21, wherein the exit port is hydrophilic.

23. (original) The apparatus of claim 21, comprising a plurality of exit ports.

- 24. (original) The apparatus of claim 21, further comprising a conventional fluidics device coupled to the exit port.
- 25. (original) The apparatus of claim 21, wherein the vessel comprises a flow-through injector.
- 26. (original) The apparatus of claim 21, wherein there are two or more pressurized vessels.
- 27. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 26, further comprising using switching pump, wherein the switching pump is configured to switch the extraction force between a first fluid packet in a first pressurized vessel and a second fluid packet in a second pressurized vessel.